

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3 by deleting the requirement that the sections be joined together "by throughbolts". The specification does not make any statement about throughbolts being required.

Applicant also has amended claim 1 by deleting the requirement that the contact block is "substantially cylindrical". The specification does not make any statement that the contact block need by substantially cylindrical.


Applicant also has amended claim 1 be deleting the requirement that the stationary contacts be in pairs. This amendment is supported in the published patent specification at col. 3, lines 39-42 where it states "Preferably, two stationary contacts 18 are located on either side of each moveable contact 28..." (emphasis added).

Finally, applicant has added new claims 4 and 5 which contain all the limitations of claim 2 and underlying claim 1 except that they require only three and two discrete switching patterns respectively, whereas claim 2 requires four discrete switching patterns. Both of these new claims are supported in the specification at col. 4, lines 20-24 where it states "The inverter bypass safety switch may be configured in either a two position, three position, four position unit, depending on the needs of the user. The two position unit has a DRIVE and a LINE

position. The three position unit has DRIVE, LINE, and OFF positions."

It is believed that this constitutes a complete response to the December 12, 2000 Office Action. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions relating to this application.

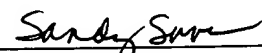
Respectfully submitted,


Harold J. Fasnacht
Reg. No. 35,507

BULLWINKEL PARTNERS, LTD.
19 S. LaSalle Street - Suite 1300
Chicago, Illinois 60603-1493
Telephone: 312-201-0777

Dated: 12/21/00

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, DC 20231.

Dec. 22 2000

Signature